

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) A surgical apparatus having comprising:  
a hollow needle having a port therein for enabling tissue entry into a  
needle lumen through said port;  
a cutter sleeve including a cutting blade disposed within said hollow  
needle for severing tissue entering the needle lumen through said port;  
a driver, connected to said cutting blade, for moving the blade between a  
first position enabling tissue entry through said port and a second position closing said

port, the tissue entering the needle being severed as the blade moves between the first and second positions; ~~and, said driver comprising a stepper motor and a cable for connecting said cutter sleeve for moving the cutter sleeve in a stroking motion, said cable including an outer stationary cable and an inner cable slidably disposed therein connected to said cutter sleeve.~~

a vacuum source in communication with said needle lumen for causing tissue entry into the needle lumen through said port and for aspiration of severed tissue through the lumen; and

~~the improvement comprising:~~

a controller, including a valve for controlling vacuum communication between said vacuum source and said needle lumen and connected to said driver, for coordinating vacuum and blade movement at rates between one communication and about 1000 communication per minute so that vacuum is provided to said needle lumen when the blade is in the first position and during severing of tissue by the blade and reducing vacuum to said needle lumen before moving the blade from the second position to the first position.